



Bipartisan Policy Center Action

The Family Stability and Opportunity Vouchers Act

S.1257, H.R.3776

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A BIPARTISAN BILL TO CREATE 250,000 ADDITIONAL HOUSING MOBILITY VOUCHERS TO ALLOW FAMILIES TO MOVE TO AREAS WITH GREATER OPPORTUNITY

What does the bill do?

The Family Stability and Opportunity Vouchers Act would create 250,000 new housing vouchers over five years that specifically target low-income, high-need families with young children. The bill provides households with customized mobility counseling to help families move to areas with high-performing quality schools, child care, and early education programs.

Who is qualified for a voucher?

Families with children under age 6 who have a history of housing insecurity or homelessness, live in an area with concentrated poverty, or are at risk of being pushed out of well-resourced areas qualify for a voucher under the Family Stability and Opportunity Vouchers Act.

Why is the bill needed?

Providing affordable housing in opportunity-rich neighborhoods increases the upward economic mobility of families with an impact that can last for generations. Access to safe, affordable housing is linked to nearly every quality-of-life measure, including better educational and health outcomes that offer children a greater chance to succeed. Research shows that every year children spend in neighborhoods with quality schools and other advantages, their chances of success later in life improve. In fact, a HUD Moving to Opportunity experiment found that poor children who moved to lower-poverty neighborhoods are 32% more likely to attend college and make 31% higher annual incomes as adults. Yet, while housing vouchers are known to increase economic mobility, families often wait years to receive a voucher, and only one in four receives assistance due to limited funds. This legislation would focus on this critical unmet need – the housing stability of families with young children.